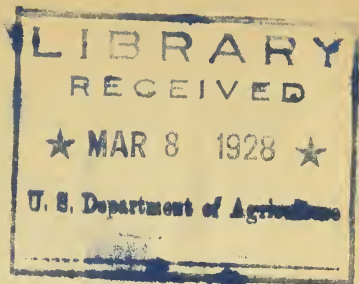


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# THE CIVIL SERVICE

## IN THE

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

On March 4, 1893, the total number of persons in the U. S. Department of Agriculture was.....	2,497
In the classified service there were .....	698
Of whom there were—	
Excepted from competitive examination .....	80
Subject to noncompetitive examination.....	12
	<u>92</u>
Leaving subject to competitive examination .....	606
On November 1, 1895, the total number of employees was.....	2,019
Of whom there were—	
In the classified service .....	1,489
Excepted from competitive examination .....	4
	<u>1,485</u>
Leaving subject to competitive examination .....	1,485

This shows an increase between March 4, 1893, and November 1, 1895, of 879 persons subject to competitive examination.

One of the first acts of the present Secretary was to have the position of the Appointment Clerk of the Department, who had served under the last administration, put under civil service rule and subject to competitive examination. Other places were brought in rapidly until now the classified service includes all officers, clerks, and employees of the Department, including the Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, chiefs of divisions, superintendents, chiefs of offices, State statistical agents, experts; all superintendents of quarantine stations, inspectors, assistant inspectors, veterinary inspectors, microscopists, assistant microscopists, meat taggers, stock examiners, and live stock agents in the Bureau of Animal Industry; all professors, forecast officials, local forecasters, observers, and all other officers and clerks in the Weather Bureau; all compositors, pressmen, folders, engineers, assistant engineers, messengers, assistant messengers, and watchmen. None of the messenger or watchmen class can be promoted to clerical positions without passing the examination therefor as in the case of other applicants. The only persons not in the classified civil service in the Department of Agriculture at present are the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and the Chief of the Weather Bureau, who are appointed by the President. The Chief Clerk of the Department and the private secretaries to the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and the Chief Clerk are the only persons excepted from examination by the civil service rules.



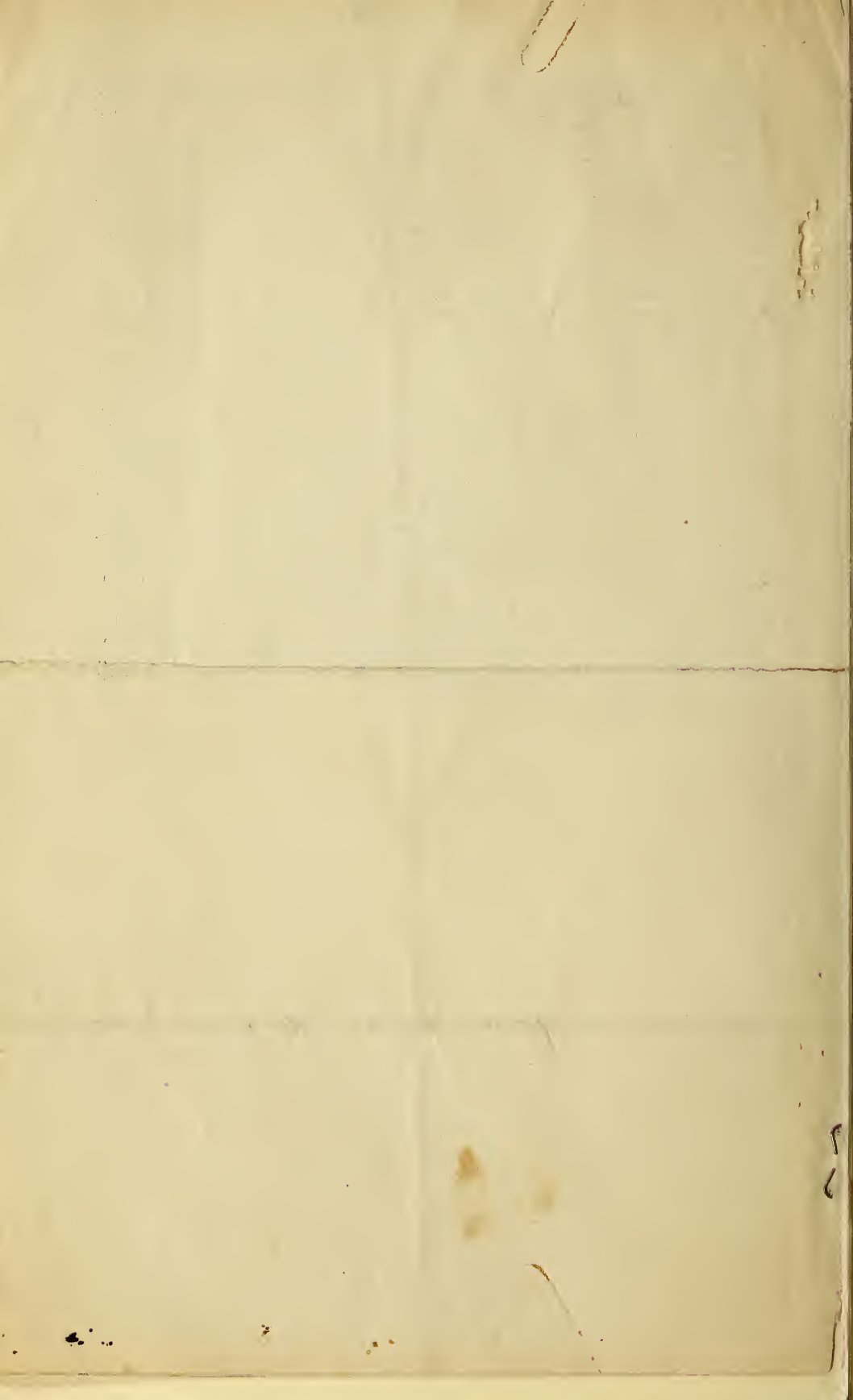
The remaining 530 persons on the rolls of the Department on November 1, 1895, were laborers, workmen, and charwomen. Every person ranking as a skilled workman, even, is now included in the civil service.

There are some 30 bureaus, divisions, offices, laboratories, and other subordinate organizations in the Department of Agriculture. Of scientific divisions, three have been established during Secretary Morton's administration and seven vacancies have occurred by death and resignation among the chiefs of these divisions. How were these important positions filled? Notwithstanding the fact that none of these positions were at that time included in the classified service, those in the new divisions were filled by appointing gentlemen who had been special agents of the Department under previous administrations; five of the other vacancies were filled by promoting men in the same divisions, and only two of them were appointed from the outside during this administration.

Two appointments have been made by the President in the Department of Agriculture besides the Secretary. The gentleman appointed Assistant Secretary was a graduate in agricultural chemistry of a German university, had been ten years director of agricultural experiment stations in this country, and eight years a president of a State university. He was not a candidate for the position and there was not a testimonial or letter in Washington indorsing him when his name was forwarded to the Senate. The office of Chief of the Weather Bureau was filled by the promotion of a professor in the Weather Bureau, who, after twenty years' service, had attained to that position through a competitive examination followed by a practical test of skill in forecasting the weather, held under the auspices of a board consisting of Professor Mendenhall, Professor Harrington, Major H. H. C. Dunwoody, U. S. A., and the Assistant Secretary.

The Secretary has now asked Congress to establish the office of "Director-in-Chief" of scientific bureaus and investigations in the Department of Agriculture, to be filled by the President with a broadly educated, scientific, and experienced man. This office is the keystone needed to complete the perfect arch of civil service in the Department of Agriculture.

*February 29, 1896.*



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U.S. Dept. of agriculture.

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The civil service in the Department of agriculture.  
[1896]

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